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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/854,359	05/11/2001	John Melvin Brown	10002247-1	1292

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EXAMINER

FIELDS, COURTNEY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2137

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/854,359	BRAWN ET AL. 	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Courtney D. Fields	2137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2001.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-56 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shrader (U.S. Patent No. 5, 864, 666). Referring to the rejection of claims 1, 17, and 34, Shrader discloses a secure network configured to carry data, comprising: a plurality of anti-bubbles (different operating systems), each anti-bubble having a plurality of anti-bubble partitions, each anti-bubble partition having at least one network device configured to transmit and receive data, and all of the network devices corresponding to at least one of the plurality of anti-bubbles have the same network security policy (IP filter rules) and a plurality of network control points (firewalls), each network control point including one or more network control point devices having at least one interface, wherein each of the plurality of anti-bubble partitions is connected to at least one network control point to form an anti-bubble boundary, the network control point is used to provide a connection between any two network devices, and wherein at least one of the network control point devices is configured to enforce the network security policy of the anti-bubble that is connected to the network control point device in Column 2, lines 64-67, Column 3, lines 1-9, Column 4, lines 11-22, 47-54, Column 10, lines 41-46.

As per claims 2, 23, 33, and 35, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein a plurality of inter-bubble devices each have a inter-bubble device configured to connect at least two of the plurality of anti-bubbles to one another and to enforce the network security policy of each of the plurality of anti-bubbles that the inter-bubble device is connected to in Column 4, lines 39-46 and Figure 3.

As per claims 3, 24, 38, and 50, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein each of the plurality of anti-bubble partitions (gateway) that belong to the same anti-bubble has the same network security policy applied at each of the plurality of network control points that are connected to the plurality of anti-bubble partitions in Column 5, lines 1-12.

As per claims 4, 25, and 36, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein each of the plurality of anti-bubble partitions has no network connectivity to all other anti-bubble partitions within the same anti-bubble in Column 4, lines 31-38.

As per claims 5, 27, 42, and 54, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein each of the plurality of anti-bubble partitions is defined by an address range in Column 6, lines 48-63.

As per claims 6, 28, 43, and 55, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein each of the network devices in each of the plurality of anti-bubble partitions has an address contained within the address range in Column 7, lines 1-11.

As per claims 7, 29, 44, and 56, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein each address exists in only one of the plurality of anti-bubble partitions in Column 8, lines 31-36.

As per claims 8 and 46, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein each of the plurality of network control points ensures source address integrity at each anti-bubble boundary in Column 4, lines 23-29.

As per claims 9, 26, and 47, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein each of the plurality of anti-bubble partitions is connected to at least two network control point devices to achieve high availability in the case of a failed interface or network control point device in Column 10, lines 50-64.

As per claims 10, 18, 30, 37, 45, and 49, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein data not be transmitted between two network devices in different ant-bubble partitions of the same anti-bubble in Column 12, lines 46-50.

As per claims 11, 31, 39, and 52, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein the plurality of network control points are coupled to one another and form a virtual backbone that is external to all of the plurality of anti-bubbles in Column 4, lines 11-23, 55-57.

As per claims 12, 21, 32, 40, and 53, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein the plurality of network control points ensure source address integrity across the virtual backbone in Column 6, lines 48-63, Column 7, lines 1-11.

As per claims 13 and 41, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein each network device connects to only one network control point in Column 4, lines 31-35.

As per claim 14, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein the total number of network control points is greater than the number of network control points connected to any one particular anti-bubble partition in Column 14, lines 53-65.

As per claims 15, 20, and 22, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein all data transmitted from one network device to another network device traverses only one network control point in Column 9, lines 50-59.

As per claims 16, 20, and 51, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein all data transmitted from one network device to another network device traverses only two network control points in Column 6, line 37, Column 7, lines 1-11.

As per claim 19, Shrader discloses the claimed limitation wherein a bubble having a distinct network security policy and a plurality of bubble partitions, each bubble partition having a plurality of network devices configured to transmit and receive data in Column 3, lines 54-62.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Reid (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,226) discloses a system and method for controlling interactions between networks.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney D. Fields whose telephone number is 571-272-3871. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Wed. 6:00 - 6:00 pm; Thur. 6:00 - 10 am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

COJ
cdf

September 23, 2004

Matthew B. Smithers
MATTHEW SMITHERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 2137